

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. Of these, claim 1 is independent, and the remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, upon claim 1.

Claim Amendments

By way of this reply, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the claimed invention. Specifically, the claim has been amended to clarify the feature “an upstream end of the washing water distribution pipe is removably attached to a first connecting pipe connected to an outlet side of a washing water supply pump in a washing water tank in the bottom of the washing chamber such that the first connecting pipe extends toward the opposite side of the front surface of the washing water tank.” Support for the amendments may be found, for example, in Figure 3 and paragraph [0026] of the specification, as originally filed. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Objections

Claim 1 is objected to for informalities. As discussed above, by way of this reply, claim 1 has been amended to correct the informalities per the Examiner’s suggestion. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 54-11751 (“Shibata”) in view of Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 4-40931 (“Masataka”) in view of Japanese Utility Laid Open Application No. H6-0068663 (“Kito”) in further view of Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2003180597 (“Toga”).

Applicant notes that, from the context of the Office Action, the above prior art reference which the Examiner relies on for the rejection should be Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 52-151683 (“Shibata”). As discussed above, by way of this reply, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the claimed invention. Thus, to the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

Referring to the figures and specification as an example, one or more embodiments of the claimed invention have a unique structural feature at an upstream end (21a) of the washing water distribution pipe (21) associated with a first connecting pipe (31) and a washing water supply pump (19), which is installed in a washing water tank (17). More specifically, the washing water supply pump (19) is installed in a front surface of the washing water tank (17) so that an inlet and an outlet of the washing water supply pump (19) are positioned within the washing water tank (17). an upstream end (21a) of the washing water distribution pipe (21) is removably inserted into a first connecting pipe (31) connected to an outlet side of a washing water supply pump (19) in a washing water tank (17) in the bottom of the washing chamber (3), such that the first connecting pipe (31)

extends toward the opposite side of the front surface of the washing water tank (17) (*see e.g.*, Figs. 3 and 5, and paragraphs [0026] and [0033] of the original specification). Accordingly, due to this configuration, the claimed invention allows for easier attachment and detachment of pips than conventional art.

Accordingly, independent claim 1, as amended, includes, in part, “an upstream end of the washing water distribution pipe is removably attached to a first connecting pipe connected to an outlet side of a washing water supply pump in a washing water tank in the bottom of the washing chamber such that the first connecting pipe extends toward the opposite side of the front surface of the washing water tank,” and “the washing water supply pump is installed in a front surface of the washing water tank so that an inlet and an outlet of the washing water supply pump are positioned within the washing water tank.” Thus, the claim requires a structural feature, in which *the washing water supply pump is installed in a front surface of the washing water tank so that an inlet and an outlet of the washing water supply pump are positioned within the washing water tank, wherein an upstream end of the washing water distribution pipe is removably attached to a first connecting pipe connected to an outlet side of a washing water supply pump in a washing water tank in the bottom of the washing chamber such that the first connecting pipe extends toward the opposite side of the front surface of the washing water tank.*

In contrast, neither Shibata, nor Masataka, shows or suggests at least the above structural feature, as required by the claimed invention.

Specifically, Shibata discloses a dishwasher having a washing water pipe in a washing chamber and a washing supply pump. However, as the Examiner acknowledges, Shibata fails to show or suggest at least, the feature “*the washing water supply pump is installed in a front surface of the washing water tank so that an inlet and an outlet of the washing water supply pump are positioned within the washing water tank,*” as required by amended claim 1.

Masataka discloses a dishwasher having water supply pipes which are detachable/attachable, but also fails to show or suggest the above feature “*the washing water supply pump is installed in a front surface of the washing water tank so that an inlet and an outlet of the washing water supply pump are positioned within the washing water tank, wherein an upstream end of the washing water distribution pipe is removably attached to a first connecting pipe connected to an outlet side of a washing water supply pump in a washing water tank in the bottom of the washing chamber such that the first connecting pipe extends toward the opposite side of the front surface of the washing water tank*” as required by amended claim 1.

Also, neither Kito, nor Toga, provide at least the above feature which Shibata and Masataka lack with respect to amended claim 1.

Specifically, Kito discloses a dishwasher having a main pipe to supply water to top and bottom nozzle arms so that the top and bottom nozzles spray water to the interior of the dishwasher. However, Kito also fails to show or suggest at least the above feature “*the washing water supply pump is installed in a front surface of the washing water tank so that an inlet and an outlet of the*

washing water supply pump are positioned within the washing water tank,” as required by amended claim 1.

Toga discloses a dishwasher having a bracket to fix a water supply pipe. However, Toga also fails to show or suggest at least the above feature “*the washing water supply pump is installed in a front surface of the washing water tank so that an inlet and an outlet of the washing water supply pump are positioned within the washing water tank,”* as required by amended claim 1.

In view of the above, independent claim 1, as amended, is patentable over Shibata, Masataka, Kito, and Toga because, whether separately or in combination, the references fail to show or suggest all of the limitations of the claim. By virtue of their dependence, claims 2-4 are also patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 07200/082001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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